

The Rules of Reading

Return To Sources To Fill The Knowledge Gap

Question Everything, Learn Something, Answer Nothing: Euripides

Always Question everything for you never know what answers you will Find.

Always Questions everything. Use 5W and 1H

*“Everything was done to try and learn how to become a better basketball player. Everything. So when you have the point of view then literally the world becomes your library to help you become better at your craft... because you know what you want the world is giving you the information 100% because you know what you’re looking for.” **Kobe Bryant***

Once you know what it is in life that you want to do, then the world basically becomes your library. Everything you view, you can view from that perspective, which makes everything a learning asset for you.

Never Take Shortcuts that affect negatively my work quality. Take shortcuts that increase productivity, but not affect my work Quality.

Volume 26

Do Fewer Things: *Prioritize a limited number of significant tasks to reduce overload and enhance focus.*

Work at a Natural Pace: *Align your work rhythm with natural cycles, avoiding the pitfalls of constant urgency.*

Obsess Over Quality: *Commit to excellence in your endeavors, even if it means*

Cal Newport

Prefer to Do Your Own Research, rather ask Artificial Intelligence (AI). Artificial intelligence can be useful for Geographical facts. But, when it comes to serious research, you should not use it. If you are not expert on the topic, then simply do not comment without proper Research. **William Lane Craig**

Brain Like Muscle, The Harder You Use, The Stronger it Becomes.

"If You Don't Read Newspaper You are uninformed. If You Do Read It You Are Misinformed. What are the Responsibilities The Reporter Has? The Responsibility Of Reporter Is To Tell The Truth, Not Just To Be First, But To Tell The Truth. We Living In The Society, Where Just First Is Priority, who Cares, Just Get It Out There, Do Not Care Who Would It Hurts, Do Not Care Who Would Destroy, Do Not Care If It Is True, Just Say It And Sell It." **Denzel Washington**

If you want your name to be remembered after your death, either do things worth writing, or write things worth reading." **Benjamin Franklin.**

If You Don't Produce You Won't Thrive – No Matter How Skilled Or Talented You Are. Human beings, it seems, are at their best when immersed deeply in something challenging. If you service low-impact activities, therefore, you're taking away time you could be spending on higher-impact activities. Two Core Abilities for Thriving in the New Economy

- *The ability to quickly master hard things.*
- *The ability to produce at an elite level, in terms of both quality and speed.*

Cal Newport.

Returning to the source material

Returning to the source material is a valuable strategy when you're stuck while learning or solving a problem. Here's a detailed, step-by-step guide to effectively revisit and extract insights from your source material to overcome the gaps in your knowledge:

Step 1: Identify the Specific Gap or Problem

1.1 Define Your Sticking Point

When you find yourself stuck, the first and most critical step is to clearly identify where and why you are facing a problem. Often, confusion arises because the issue has not been well-defined. Start by asking yourself specific questions:

- What concept, formula, or idea is unclear to me?
- Where exactly did I lose track of the explanation or argument?
- Is the confusion related to understanding terminology, logic, or a broader conceptual framework?

For instance, let's say you are reading a physics textbook and come across an equation you don't understand. Instead of saying, "I don't get it," break it down: "I don't understand why the second derivative is used here, or how this assumption leads to this conclusion."

By defining your sticking point in such detail, you bring clarity to your learning process. You also create a direct focus for the next steps, which minimizes the time spent aimlessly re-reading or searching for answers.

1.2 Classify the Nature of the Gap

Not all learning gaps are created equal. Recognizing the type of problem you're facing can help you approach it with the right strategy:

1. **Lack of Contextual Understanding:** You might not understand the broader framework in which a specific point fits.
 - Example: Not knowing why a historical event is considered pivotal in a timeline.
2. **Terminological Confusion:** Certain terms or jargon might be unclear, creating a barrier to understanding.
 - Example: Encountering unfamiliar terms in a scientific paper without definitions.
3. **Missing Foundational Knowledge:** You may lack the prerequisite understanding needed to grasp the concept.
 - Example: Attempting to solve calculus problems without a solid grasp of algebra.
4. **Ambiguity in the Explanation:** Sometimes, the material itself may not explain a concept clearly.
 - Example: A poorly written paragraph in a textbook that uses vague or incomplete examples.

Once you classify the gap, you can decide whether to revisit earlier sections of the material, consult external sources, or break down the content further.

Step 2: Locate the Relevant Source Material

2.1 Identify the Right Resource

Pinpoint the source material that addresses the topic or issue. This could be the original book, lecture notes, journal article, podcast episode, or another medium you initially used. Here's how to do it efficiently:

- **Books:** Use the table of contents or index to locate the chapter or section where the topic is covered.
- **Lecture Notes:** Look for headings, highlighted areas, or annotations that suggest the topic's relevance.
- **Videos or Podcasts:** Rewind to the point where the issue first came up. Many platforms, like YouTube or Spotify, allow users to bookmark timestamps.
- **Digital Resources:** Use the search function to quickly find keywords within PDFs or web pages.

If you're unsure where the confusion originated, broaden your scope by reviewing related sections that might provide context or prerequisites.

2.2 Prepare for Re-Engagement

Before diving back into the material, ensure you're set up for efficient review:

1. **Create a Distraction-Free Environment:** Close unrelated tabs, turn off notifications, and set aside uninterrupted time for focused work.
2. **Organize Your Tools:**
 - Have a notebook, pen, or digital note-taking app ready for annotations.
 - Keep supplementary resources handy, such as a glossary or additional textbooks.
3. **Set a Clear Goal:** Define what you hope to achieve by revisiting the source material. For instance:
 - "Understand how this equation was derived."
 - "Learn the historical context behind this event."

A clear goal keeps you focused and prevents getting overwhelmed by extraneous details.

Step 3: Review Methodically

3.1 Start From the Beginning of the Problematic Section

When revisiting the material, start from the beginning of the relevant section. Even if you think you understand the earlier parts, reviewing them can provide clarity and context that you may have missed initially. Approach the material with a fresh perspective:

- **Read Slowly:** Don't rush. Absorb the material sentence by sentence, ensuring you grasp the meaning of each part.
- **Engage Actively:** Ask yourself questions as you go. For example:
 - "Why is this step necessary?"
 - "What is the author assuming here?"
 - "Does this align with what I already know?"

By actively engaging, you turn passive reading into a problem-solving exercise.

3.2 Break It Down Into Smaller Pieces

Complex information can be overwhelming. To manage this, break it into smaller, digestible chunks:

1. **Identify Subsections:** Divide the content into logical parts. For example, a single equation might involve multiple steps or assumptions.
2. **Tackle Each Part Individually:** Work through each part one at a time, ensuring you fully understand it before moving on.
3. **Simplify the Language:** Rewrite dense or technical language in simpler terms. If the material states, "The derivative of the function indicates the rate of change," rephrase it as, "This shows how fast something is changing."

3.3 Annotate and Highlight

As you work through the material, make it your own:

- **Highlight Key Points:** Use highlighters sparingly to mark essential sentences or phrases.
- **Write Notes in Your Own Words:** Summarizing the content in your own words forces deeper understanding.
- **Mark Unclear Areas:** Use question marks or symbols to flag areas that still confuse you. This allows you to revisit them later or seek clarification.

Step 4: Cross-Reference with Other Sections or Sources

4.1 Check Prerequisites

If the section you're reviewing assumes prior knowledge, revisit earlier parts of the material. For example:

- **In Books:** Review earlier chapters or footnotes.
- **In Lecture Notes:** Look for the introductory slides or background sections.
- **In Tutorials:** Watch or read foundational lessons.

Many concepts build on prior knowledge, so understanding the basics can often clarify advanced topics.

4.2 Consult Additional Sources

If the original material doesn't fully address your confusion, look for alternative explanations. Different perspectives can make a big difference:

- **Books and Articles:** Search for other authors who explain the same concept.
- **Videos and Tutorials:** Platforms like YouTube or Khan Academy often have step-by-step guides on difficult topics.
- **Forums and Communities:** Sites like Reddit, Quora, or Stack Exchange allow you to ask questions and get answers from knowledgeable individuals.
- **Expert Help:** If you're in a course, reach out to your teacher, professor, or classmates for help.

The goal here is to see the concept from a different angle.

Step 5: Test Your Understanding

5.1 Summarize in Your Own Words

To confirm your understanding, write or explain the concept in simple terms:

- Pretend you're teaching someone else.
- Use analogies or examples from real life to illustrate the concept.

If you struggle to do this, it's a sign that you need to revisit the material again.

5.2 Ask Questions

Formulating questions is another way to solidify your understanding:

- Ask "why" and "how" questions to explore the depth of the concept.
- Write down any remaining uncertainties to guide further review or discussion.

5.3 Attempt Related Problems

Apply what you've learned by solving practice problems or answering questions related to the topic. Practice reinforces learning and highlights areas that still need work.

Step 6: Adjust Your Learning Approach

6.1 Reorganize Your Notes

Consolidate everything you've learned into a cohesive set of notes:

- Use bullet points, diagrams, or charts to summarize key ideas.
- Include references to the original material for easy access.

6.2 Seek Clarifications

If you're still struggling, don't hesitate to ask for help. Engage with:

- **Peers:** Discussing concepts with classmates or colleagues can provide new insights.
- **Instructors:** Schedule office hours or send emails with specific questions.
- **Online Communities:** Participate in forums or groups dedicated to the subject.

6.3 Repeat if Necessary

Learning is iterative. If needed, go back to the source material multiple times, refining your understanding with each pass.

Step 7: Implement the Knowledge

7.1 Apply What You've Learned

Use your newfound understanding in real-life scenarios or projects. Application deepens learning and reveals practical gaps in your understanding.

7.2 Reflect and Move Forward

After overcoming a learning gap, take time to reflect:

- What strategies worked best for you?
- How can you apply these strategies in future learning?

By reflecting on your process, you set yourself up for more efficient learning in the future.

Basic Exploration, Experimentation and Practice.

1. Step 1-Basic Exploration, Experimentation and Practice.

- I. The primary goal here is to simply explore based on your instincts without attempting to achieve any particular purpose. The experimentation is obviously with respect to the particular module you are focusing.
- I. If your modules focus on some technology-orientated topic, then in this step you play around with different software to familiarise yourself with these different tools to understand ways in which they functions.
- II. If your topic is something more theoretical, then you would need to ponder what exactly you want to learn about and then form some hypotheses about how those concepts or process manifest themselves, and the best way you can start learning them.
- III. The goal of this step is to stipulate (demand) our mind to start asking the right questions about our modules. These questions will be most important outcome of this step.
- IV. This step entails answering the questions you came up with in the previous step.
- V. In this steps you will attempt to answer at least some of these questions if not all of them. For this, you would need to revisit the various resources you aggregated earlier and use them to first, answer all the questions you came up. Second to acquire as much knowledge as you can. Continue this process until you believe you have learned enough about this specific module.
- VI. You would need to go back and forth between learning new things and applying them practically to reinforce your newfound knowledge.
- VII. Split time between learning and practical application.
- VIII. Experiment on trial and error.